

# Dinosaurs and bumps on old logs

*Insects in prehistoric wood will help unlock secrets of giants' world.*

By Lucinda Dillon

Deseret News staff writer

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**BLANDING** — Who'd have guessed that so many wonders lie in the hardened insides of a prehistoric log?

Beetles and termites entombed in their wooden home provide a vital learning link to the ecology of dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago, and are a highlight at The Dinosaur Museum, which a husband and wife team of paleontologists opened this summer in Blanding.

The huge museum looms against an arid desert backdrop a few hundred yards off U.S. 191. At 14,000 square feet, it easily is one of the largest buildings in this community of 3,800. Blanding residents and business owners contributed land and money for the project, which attracted 1,500 to 2,000 people for its opening July 4.

Although the new facility has plenty of life-size dinosaur models, a 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite, fossil displays and a hall of Hollywood dinosaur movie posters, Stephen and Sylvia Czerkas are most proud of the ongoing scientific research associated with the new museum.

"It's an integral part of this, and extremely important for the field," said Sylvia Czerkas.

The three logs — estimated to be about 275 million years old — are what remains of ancient trees that fell long ago in Utah's San Juan County. The petrified wood is displayed within the ferocious gaze of a life-size model of the carnivorous allosaurus and near the skeletal remains of a plateosaurus.

Several paleontologists, researchers who study the remains of ancient animals and plants, are studying four to five kinds of beetles, termites and sediments within the logs, Czerkas said. "It's a miniature eco-system."

KRISTIAN JACOBSEN, DESERET NEWS



Stephen Czerkas talks about an allosaurus model he made for the museum that he and his wife run.

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A native of North Salt Lake, she now lives with her accountant husband, **Steve Koga**, in Bountiful.

Koga said taxpayers shouldn't get too worried about her math skills. As state budget director, Koga said most of her responsibilities are now managerial.

"I don't get involved in the actual detail," she said. "My job is to provide direction to those who do."

And her job also involves steady doses of political reality, such as defending the governor's budget during each legislative session, making sure each department's budget requests are in line with the governor's priorities and dealing with demands from various groups that certain projects be funded.

"Everybody knows there is more money, and it is hard to say no, no, no, no, over and over again," she said.

Still, Koga says, she loves the high-pressure, rough-and-tumble political world of the Office of Planning and Budget. But had she realized 15 or so years ago just how much calculus, statistics and, yes, math, was required for a career in accounting, she might have chosen a different career route.

**Jerry Spangler, Deseret News staff writer.**

## Deaths from Utah academy

annual meeting.

Rasmussen also won the Utah Academy of General Dentistry's "Dentist of the Year" award.

he door and jumped. Deputies quickly picked him up and took him to the hospital.

DeMill led deputies back to the same area where the shooting had occurred, parked the car and then tried to outrun deputies. Deputies found him hiding in the bushes and arrested him. DeMill had one gunshot wound to the arm.

The Salt Lake District Attorney's Office found the officers acted legally because "each had reasonable belief that the use of deadly force was necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself or others."

A letter from District Attorney Neal Gunnarson said "the 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene rather than with the

university is doing doctoral study on the logs.

The couple's real specialty, though, is dinosaurs.

The Czerkases were drawn to Blanding about five years ago by the geography and a number of untapped sites for finding fossils.

Michael Crichton recognizes the Czerkases in a page of acknowledgements in "Jurassic Park," the novel that spawned a blockbuster movie of the same title. Articles about research conducted by Stephen Czerkas have appeared in Scientific American and Time magazines and in Portland's newspaper, the Oregonian.

Stephen and Sylvia met in California about 15 years ago at a potluck for dinosaur enthusiasts: She was a museum curator and researcher, he a reknowned paleontologist and what Time magazine called the "greatest authority" on dinosaur skin impressions.

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phen Czerkas' specialty may be some of the closest replications available of the huge animals. "That's the beauty of my work," Stephen Czerkas said. "When we want to expand the collection, I can make more models."

Bones — preserved as fossils — are fairly easy to read to determine the shape and size of an animal. What the dinosaurs actually looked like: their coloring, texture

of their skin, for example, is harder to determine because the skin rots away, Czerkas says.

The only clues to these puzzles are subtle impressions stamped into mud or wet sand from a dinosaur's skin.

The Czerkases will continue to beef up the museum's collection with models now housed in collections around the world. The two honed public presentation skills

# Tribes, museums toil to obey law

**By Melissa Bean**

Deseret News staff writer

American Indian tribes and federally funded museums are struggling to fulfill the requirements set by the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act.

Betsy Chapoose, director of the Cultural Rights Protection Department of the Ute tribe, said funding repatriation efforts and working with museums are the most difficult part of implementing the act.

NAGPRA requires federally funded museums and agencies to inventory American Indian cultural items, funerary objects, sacred objects and items with cultural patrimony. If the items are proven to have cultural affiliation they must be returned to the

tribe.

For Chapoose, this means she travels extensively, identifying items to be repatriated. She said it is difficult to work with museums that do not understand the significance of their holdings.

Chapoose said one museum had some sacred objects but thought they were worthless. The items were not on the inventory.

"Museum people sometimes don't know what they have," she said.

Chapoose said at times she has to deal with ignorance and museums who have an "attitude." NAGPRA is meant to return American Indian artifacts to the right tribes in a respectful manner, she explained.

"I think the spirit of the law is well-meant, but some don't take

the spirit of the law," she said.

The government did not think about how much it would cost to implement NAGPRA, Chapoose said.

"I think federal agencies need realize we want to take care of our people — our ancestors, and sometimes we need a little help," she said.

In the case of Chief Black Hawk all parties involved are cooperating to bury his remains respectfully.

"All rights, all claims, all administrative authority belong to the Ute tribe," said Marti Allen, associate director of the Museum of Peoples and Cultures at Brigham Young University, where Black Hawk's remains are now stored.

Allen said NAGPRA is a chal-

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Lake in Utah County. For 41 years his grave, only a few miles from his birthplace, was left undisturbed. Then in 1911 several men working at the Syndicate Mine near Santaquin located the grave and removed Black Hawk's remains.

"It is curious how these icons of the past become everyone's property," said Charmaine Thompson of the Uinta National Forest. "There are different cultural ethics involved."

the chief's death detailing Black Hawk's desire for peace. Rogerson recounted how the chief went to Fillmore, set up his tent and found Bishop Thomas Callister to help him contact Brigham Young by telegraph.

Some time after, Black Hawk returned to many of the towns he had raided to make amends with the settlers. He reportedly told one man, "You need not be afraid of us anymore. I am sick of blood."

Albert Winkler, a BYU archivist with a doctorate in history, said even though Black Hawk was one of the more accessible American

mented and disputable, Winkler said.

There were reports that Black Hawk died of a combination of tuberculosis and a war wound. The supposed war wound, Winkler said, was probably a fabrication. He said those who claimed they saw Black Hawk shot as he hid behind a horse had never met Black Hawk. And it is doubtful a gun of that era could penetrate a horse or anything behind the horse, he added.

Winkler said reports of Black Hawk's tuberculosis are unproven. Something a tissue sample could



# DINOSAUR

*Continued from B1*

Experts from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management and the University of Colorado at Denver all are involved with the museum, and a paleobotanist at Brigham Young University is doing doctoral study on the logs.

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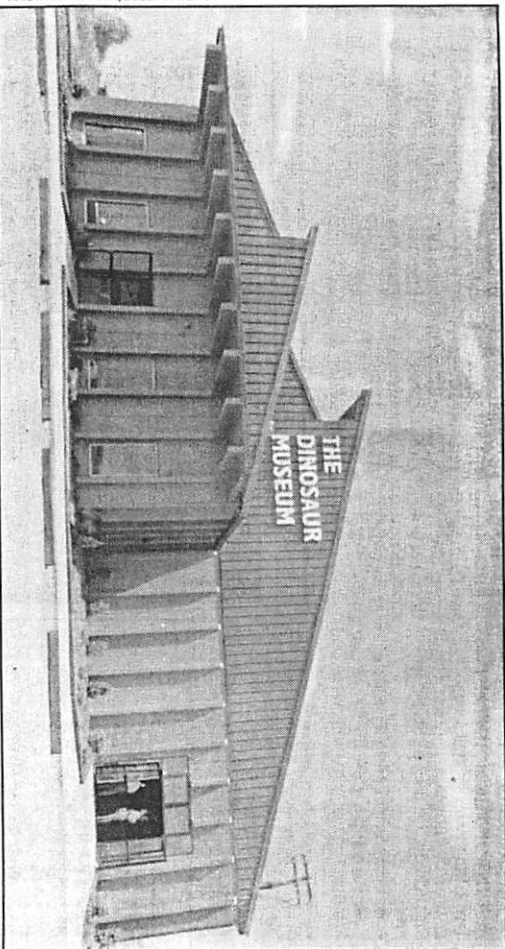
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over the past 15 years in two traveling museum exhibits titled "Dinosaurs Past and Present," and "Dinosaurs: A Global View."

Czerkas says the explosion of mainstream interest in the prehistoric animals, from such things as Barney and "Jurassic Park," is great for his field of research. "We'll see a whole new generation of paleontologists out of 'Jurassic Park.'"